DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 382 101 HE 028 302

AUTHOR	Barnett, Ronald
TITLE	The Limits of Competence: Knowledge, Higher Education and Society.
INSTITUTION	Society for Research into Higher Education, Ltd., London (England).
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-335-19341-2
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	207p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Open University Press, 1900 Frost Rd., Suite 101, Bristol, PA 19007 ($27).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Cognitive Restructuring; *Cognitive Structures; College Curriculum; *Competence; Definitions; Epistemology; Foreign Countries; *Higher Education; *Knowledge Level; *Social Values

ABSTRACT

This book is an exploration of the changing definitions of knowledge competence held to be valuable in universities. The central argument is that one ideology, that of academic competence, is being displaced with another ideology, that of operational competence. The book begins by considering the relationships among higher education, knowledge, and society. It examines ideas that constitute the dominant ideology of curriculum, such as competence and capability. It then focuses on some ideas either disappearing from public debate or defunct as apparently unworthy of serious attention, including understanding, critical thought, interdisciplinarity, and wisdom. The final section places the two ideologies of competence--operational and academic--against each other and sketches an alternative definition of human being. This idea of human being is relatively unconstrained by sectional interests, contains a sense of knowing not derived from mere instrumentality, and looks to promote human beings in situations and conditions unimaginable because the human beings concerned will be doing the imagining. (Contains approximately 180 references.) (JDD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM
EDRS